

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes ☐
no ☒

Property Name: Mt. Peer United Methodist Episcopal Church Inventory Number: S-124
Address: 28871 Iren Whittington Road Historic district: ☐ yes ☒ no
City: Marion Zip Code: 21838 County: Somerset
USGS Quadrangle(s): Marion
Property Owner: Mt. Peer United Methodist Episcopal Church Tax Account ID Number: 051188
Tax Map Parcel Number(s): 238 Tax Map Number: 57
Project: Proposed Tower Site: Marion, Somerset County, Maryland Agency: Maryland Dept. of Budget and Management
Agency Prepared By: A.D. Marble & Company
Preparer's Name: Stephanie Foell and Stacey Streett Date Prepared: 3/23/2005
Documentation is presented in: Proposed Tower Site: Marion, Somerset County, Maryland
Preparer's Eligibility Recommendation: ☐ Eligibility recommended ☒ Eligibility not recommended
Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G
Complete if the property is a contributing or non-contributing resource to a NR district/property:
Name of the District/Property: _____
Inventory Number: _____ Eligible: ☐ yes Listed: ☐ yes
Site visit by MHT Staff ☐ yes ☒ no Name: _____ Date: _____

Description of Property and Justification: *(Please attach map and photo)*

Architectural Description

Please refer to MIHP Form S-124 for 1987 survey information.

Constructed in 1907, the Mt. Peer United Methodist Episcopal Church is located at 28871 Iren Whittington Road, on the east side of MD 357, approximately one mile from the Marion Historic District (S-270). The modest, one-story, church building features elements of the Folk Victorian architectural style. The asymmetrical footprint of the church is L-shaped, with a cross-gable configuration. Decorative corbelling and brickwork in a diamond pattern is centered in the raised, red-brick masonry below the façade.

On the façade, which faces west, the wider, front-facing gable contains four, narrow, symmetrical, pointed-arch, colored-glass windows. The ell is one bay wide. Centered above these four windows in the apex of the front gable is a quatrefoil medallion containing colored-glass lights.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended ☐ Eligibility not recommended ☒
Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

MHT Comments:

Andrew Lewis
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

4/7/05
Date

Peter E. Kuntz
Reviewer, National Register Program

4/7/05
Date

200500858

The façade is interrupted by an air-conditioner unit perched between two of the arched windows. The church is fully clad in aluminum siding. The entrance doors, which are covered by storm doors, are centrally located on the ell wing, approached by a flight of poured-concrete steps.

The south elevation is divided into four bays with colored-glass, pointed-arch windows. The east elevation has two pointed-arch windows and a quatrefoil window in the gable. The entrance on this elevation is reached by a recently constructed access ramp. The north elevation is dominated by an entrance vestibule. A shed-roof, frame addition has also been constructed in this elevation. It contains small one-over-one windows.

The roof is clad in gray, asphalt shingles. Twin, brick chimney stacks with pinnacle tops punctuate each end of the side-gable roof.

A marble block reading "Mount Peer M.E. Church 1889-1907" is located on the northwest corner of the building.

Interior access was not granted as part of this survey.

A two-story, church hall dating to the same period as the church is located southeast of the church, opposite of the driveway, but connected by a narrow lane. The building is clad in asbestos-shingle siding, which obliterates any historic features of the building. Replacement, one-over-one windows are found throughout.

A paved lane approaches the entrance wing of the church. The grounds are covered in small patches of grass, with some weeds encroaching on the lawn. Tall, mature, mixed deciduous and pine trees crowd around much of the church property.

Significance

Introduction

Marion, located in Somerset County, Maryland, is situated approximately six miles north of Crisfield. Marion is a small crossroads community that was established in the middle of the nineteenth century with the construction of the earliest residences. The town developed gradually throughout the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Buildings more than 50 years of age in the Marion vicinity are generally in fair to poor condition. Many of the buildings in the commercial corridor have been altered, most substantially. The busy, four-lane Crisfield Highway (Route 413) bisects Marion and intrudes substantially on the historic character of the town, most notably on the commercial area.

Residential areas radiate out from the commercial area. The residences located closest to the commercial area are generally located along side streets and are closely spaced. However, moving outward from the commercial area, the residences are located on large parcels of land, many of which are actively cultivated. Primary crops include soybeans and corn. Modern poultry farming enterprises are also present.

The earliest buildings in Marion date to the middle of the nineteenth century. The majority of the buildings more than 50 years of age date from the early years of the twentieth century. However, numerous mobile homes and residences constructed within the last 30 years are located in the area.

The topography of Marion is generally flat with substantial stands of trees and forests as well as fields.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended _____

Eligibility not recommended _____

Criteria: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D Considerations: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D ___ E ___ F ___ G

MHT Comments:

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

Date

Reviewer, National Register Program

Date

History of Marion

Marion is located in what was once a thriving agricultural region. Consequently, it grew into one of the larger villages within Somerset County during the second half of the nineteenth century. John C. Horsey donated a portion of his land for the railroad right-of-way, and in exchange he was allowed to name the resulting town after his daughter Marion. The village served the needs of the surrounding agricultural community. The 1877 Hopkins Atlas shows two carpenter shops, two blacksmiths, and two wagon shops in the town. A general store was located in Marion, and several churches were also established there. Approximately ten residences were located in Marion at this time. Later development was focused on areas south and east of the village.

Strawberries were one of the most important crops grown in Marion as well as other parts of Somerset County. An auction to establish the best possible market prices for strawberries was initiated in Marion in 1911. The auction was soon moved to the neighboring town of Princess Anne. Marion's strawberry crop was sent by rail car to urban markets, including Baltimore, Philadelphia, and New York. By the mid 1920s, many farmers had started to raise broiler chickens, and the long chicken houses became a common site in Marion and surrounding areas. Around the same time, soybeans became a popular crop among farmers. Depression-era government subsidies encouraged their cultivation, and the crop became even more widespread during World War II, when the need for soybean oil increased government incentives. Today, soybeans and corn are the most prominent crops on the landscape.

In 1914, the Bank of Marion was established. The same year, the organization constructed a new bank building in Marion. The simple building was typical of bank buildings constructed in small towns during this era. The establishment served the other merchants and farmers in the town. It is a good example of classically inspired bank architecture, and is part of the Marion Historic District.

By the end of the first quarter of the twentieth century, Marion suffered a period of decline. References generally point to the growth and prominence of Crisfield and Princess Anne as reasons for Marion's cessation of growth. Today, Marion has a high level of unemployment. Many residents commute to jobs in Salisbury.

Architectural Resources in Marion

The earliest residences in Marion date from the middle of the nineteenth century. The houses are primarily modest, typical vernacular farmhouses, often two stories in height with narrow facades. All of the earliest houses have been abandoned and many are in danger of collapse.

Vernacular farmhouses continued to be built in Marion into the first quarter of the twentieth century. I-houses were commonly constructed in the early years of the twentieth century. Many have steeply pitched cross gables superimposed onto the traditional I-house form. Farmhouses of this form are common throughout Maryland. Another prevalent form is a two-story folk Victorian form with a projecting, two-story, three-bay form extending from the façade. This form is commonly seen throughout the Chesapeake Bay area, most notably in Talbot and Somerset Counties. In some cases, the families have moved from the original farmhouses into trailer homes located directly next to the older home. Those that continue to function as residences have been substantially altered.

The majority of buildings more than 50 year of age in Marion date to the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Houses on smaller lots were the residences of those involved with the commercial activities of the town, such as banking. The houses located further from the center of town are generally larger farmhouses.

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Date_____
Reviewer, National Register Program_____
Date

The larger agricultural plots of land that contain these farmhouses generally lack agricultural buildings or outbuildings associated with agricultural practices. In a few cases, farmsteads contain poultry houses of recent construction dates.

Residences on a small segment of Charles Cannon Road are vernacular interpretations of styles and forms more commonly associated with streetcar suburbs of the early twentieth centuries. Some of these include Folk Victorian residences and American Foursquares. These are all on small parcels of land.

The residences which date from the 1930s and 40s are primarily modest cottages, most with enclosed porches. Trailers were placed throughout residential parcels in Marion during the 1960s and 70s. Today, small ranch houses constructed from the 1980s through the present day are prevalent and comprise much of the residential building stock in the vicinity. Other new residences are larger vacation homes along the Big Annemessex River.

The commercial architecture of Marion is typical of what is found in small communities throughout Maryland. There are two, small bank buildings and several small shops. The majority of the buildings have been altered, and approximately 35 percent are vacant and abandoned. Two rail-related buildings are in Marion, a freight station and a passenger station. Both buildings have been altered for use as retail space.

The Methodist religion is historically most concentrated in the Eastern Shore region of Delaware and Maryland (Williams 1997:59). The first rural, African-American Methodist Church was established in 1847 by free African-American slaves in Cumberland, Maryland (Chiat 1997:223). However, rural Methodist chapels were not architecturally ostentatious, but modest gable-end structures, similar to early meetinghouses. Mt. Peer United Methodist Episcopal Church is contemporary with a group of Methodist churches that experienced a distinctive pattern of architecture in the lower Eastern Shore region. During the nineteenth century, Methodist congregations traditionally worshipped in modest, symmetrical, frame buildings. According to a neighbor, Mt. Peer has been abandoned due to dwindling membership and members now attend other churches in the area.

Determination of Eligibility

The property was evaluated for eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places. According to the National Register:

The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and:

- A. that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
- B. that are associated with the lives of significant persons in our past; or
- C. that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- D. that have yielded or may be likely to yield, information important in history or prehistory.

Mt. Peer United Methodist Episcopal Church is an example of a vernacular interpretation of Gothic Revival religious architecture. Other churches in Somerset County reflect the same trends. According to the 1987 Maryland Inventory of Historic Property form

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Date

Reviewer, National Register Program

Date

for Mt. Peer, it is one of approximately 12 rural black churches in Somerset County. Mt. Peer is similar to these other churches in date of construction, building form, and architectural detail. No information on the builder or architect was uncovered during research.

Two other churches in the Marion vicinity are individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places: Quindocqua United Methodist Church (S-123) and St. Paul's Protestant Church (S-79). Both display more high-style features of the Gothic Revival style, and retain high degrees of integrity. Three churches are also within the boundaries of the Marion Historic District (S-270), which has been determined eligible for listing in the National Register. These churches include Handy Memorial, Marion Baptist Church, and the Eastern Shore Evangelistic Church. Finally, the Waters Chapel Methodist Church (S-250) is located just north of Marion and appears to be eligible for the National Register. Of this group, Mt. Peer is the least architecturally distinguished, and also has the least integrity due to replacement materials and additions to the original building.

Mt. Peer is not eligible for individual listing in the National Register of Historic Places. After extensive research, it does not appear that the church is associated with significant events or people that would make it eligible under Criteria A or B. It is also not eligible under Criterion C. It is a typical example of a small vernacular church, of which there are many on the Eastern Shore. The building has been clad in aluminum siding and has a substantial addition. Some windows have been replaced with inappropriate configurations. The related church hall has also been altered by the application of siding. These issues affect the integrity of design, materials, and workmanship of the church. The property was not evaluated under Criterion D.

It is possible that the Mt. Peer church may be eligible for the National Register as part of a multiple property documentation of rural African-American churches in Somerset County. However, it is not individually eligible for listing.

Bibliography

Chiat, Marilyn J. *America's Religious Architecture: Sacred Places for Every Community*. Preservation Press and John Wiley and Sons, Inc., New York, 1997.

Maryland Historical Trust. *Maryland Inventory of Historic Property Forms and National Register of Historic Places Forms for Marion and surrounding areas of southern Maryland*.

Maryland's Historic Somerset. *Princess Anne, Maryland*: Board of Education, 1969.

Touart, Paul Baker. *Somerset; An Architectural History*. Annapolis: Maryland Historical Trust and Somerset County Historical Trust, Inc., 1990.

Williams, Peter W. *Houses of God: Region, Religion, and Architecture in the United States*. Series: Public Expressions of Religion in America. Conrad Cherry, ed. University of Illinois Press in cooperation with the Center for the Study of Religion and American Culture, Indiana University—Purdue University at Indianapolis, 1997.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended _____

Eligibility not recommended _____

Criteria: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D Considerations: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D ___ E ___ F ___ G

MHT Comments:

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

Date

Reviewer, National Register Program

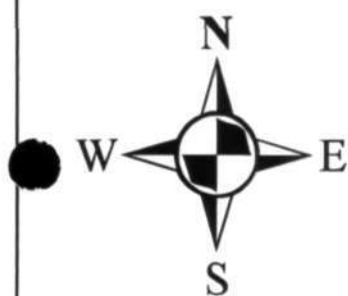
Date



Mt. Peer United Methodist Church (S-124)
28871 Iren Whittington Road

USGS Quadrangle, Marion
Marion, Somerset County, Maryland

0 0.125 0.25 0.5 0.75 1 Miles





MEHP#S-124

Mt. Peer Methodist Episcopal Church

Somerset County, MD

Stacey Streett

March 2005

MD SHPO

Facade (west elevation)

1/6

ART-2611 <No. 36 >036
409 7817 -1 N N-8 51 <042>0



W. B. MECHURCH
1884-1907

MEHP# 5-124

Mt. Peer Methodist Episcopal Church

Somerset County, MD

Stacey Street

March 2005

MD SHPO

Date Stone, Facade

2/6

ART-2611 <NO. 31 >031
409 7817 -1 N N-4-34 <042>0



MT HP # S-124

Mt. Peer Methodist Episcopal Church

Somerset County, MD

Stacey Streett

March 2005

MD SHPO

North elevation

3/6

ART-2611 <No. 35 >035
409 7817 -1 N N-8-07 (042)0



MEHP # S-124

Mt. Peer Methodist Episcopal Church

Somerset County, MD

Stacey Street

March 2005

MD SHPO

Northeast corner

4/6

ART-2611 <No. 34 >034
409 7817 +1 N N-5-22 <042>0



MZHP # S-124

Mt. Peer Methodist Episcopal Church

Somerset County, MD

Stacey Street

March 2005

MD SHPO

South elevation

5/6

ART-2611 <NO. 33 >033
409 7817 -1 N N-6 10 <042>©



MEHP#S-124

Mt. Peer Methodist Episcopal Church
Somerset County, MD

Stacey Street

March 2005

MD SHPO

Church Hall, west elevation

6/6

S-124

1907

Mount Peer M. E. Church
Marion vicinity
public worship

The Mount Peer M. E. Church stands southwest of Marion near Tulls Corner. Supported by a vented brick foundation, the ell-shaped frame church is mainly lighted by colored glass lancet windows on three elevations. The west (principal) facade is also distinguished by a cloverleaf-shaped light in the upper gable. Fixed in the northwest corner of the brick foundation is a marble datestone with the inscription, "Mount Peer M. E. Church 1889-1907." Standing southeast of the church is a two-story asbestos shingled frame church hall.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. S-124

Magi No. 2001244708

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Mount Peer M. E. Church

and/or common

2. Location

street & number East side of MD 357, 1 mile S of Marion J.F. 9/3/97 ☐ not for publicationcity, town Marion ☒ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Somerset

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Trustees of Mount Peer M. E. Church

street & number telephone no.:

city, town Marion state and zip code Maryland 21838

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Somerset Clerk of Court liber

street & number Somerset County Courthouse folio

city, town Princess Anne state MD 21853

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title
date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. S-124

Condition

☐ excellent
☐ good
☒ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Mount Peer M. E. Church is located on the east side of MD 357, approximately one mile south of Marion, Somerset County, Maryland. The L-plan frame church, dated to 1907, faces west and is accompanying by a two-story two-bay frame church hall of contemporary age.

Supported by a vented common bond brick foundation, the single-story ell plan structure is uniformly sheathed with aluminum siding and covered by a steeply pitched asphalt shingle roof.

The west (principal) facade is marked by four colored-glass lancet windows that light the sanctuary and a clover-leaf shaped window that pierces the upper gable. The eaves to the roof are extended, and the rafter feet are exposed. Positioned in the northwest corner is a marble date plack with an inscription, "Mount Peer M.E. Church 1889-1907." The entrance to the church is located in the leg of the "L" which extends northward from the main church. The paneled double door is topped by a two-light transom.

The south side of the church is divided evenly into four bays that are marked by colored-glass lancet windows with pointed arches. A concrete block stove stack rises from the roof.

The east elevation has two lancet windows that pierce the first floor and a clover-leaf shaped window that pierces the upper gable. A back door is located in the northeast corner.

The north side of the church is largely covered by the entrance vestibule. A shed roofed frame addition has been attached to the northeast corner.

The interior of this church was not seen.

Standing to the southeast of the church is a two-story two-bay by one-room asbestos-shingled frame church hall that rests on a minimal brick foundation and is covered by a medium-sloped asphalt shingle roof. The west (main) elevation is a balanced facade with a four-panel door in the north bay and an adjacent 6/6 sash window. The second floor is lighted by two 6/6 sash. The remaining elevations are marked by a similar arrangement of doors and windows, and narrow brick stove stacks rise from the northeast and southwest sides of the structure.

8. Significance

Survey No. S-124

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1907

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Mount Peer M. E. Church is one of approximately a dozen rural black churches in Somerset County. In general form, detail and date it is very similar to most black churches in Somerset County. The restricted but clear reference to the Gothic Revival style is a common feature to most of the other churches in this group. The church has been altered with the application of aluminum siding. The building is located in the middle of a small, and characteristically dispersed, rural black community.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. S-124

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone Easting Northing

B

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone Easting Northing

C

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

E

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

F

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

G

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

H

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paul Touart - Architectural Historian

organization Somerset County Historical Trust

date 4/12/85

street & number 424 North Somerset Avenue

telephone 651-0077

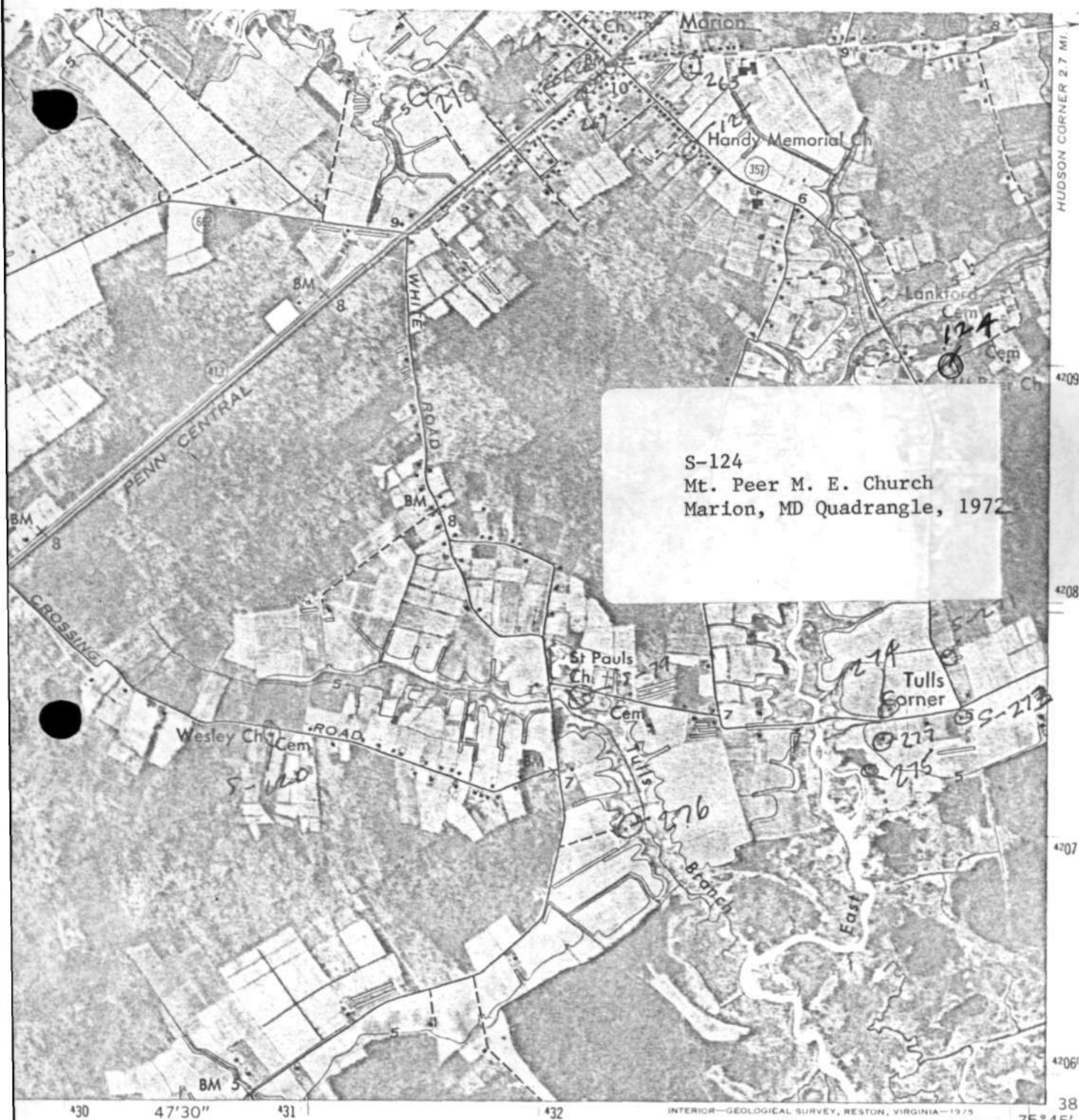
city or town Princess Anne

state Maryland 21853

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438



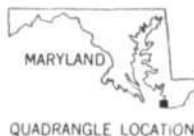
S-124
Mt. Peer M. E. Church
Marion, MD Quadrangle, 1972

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, hard surface ——— Light-duty road, hard or improved surface ———
Secondary highway, hard surface ——— Unimproved road ———

Trails

○ Interstate Route ○ U. S. Route ○ State Route



MARION, MD.
N3800—W7545/7.5

1972

AMS 5860 III SE—SERIES V8330